

## session 14: **building strong families**

The p.a.p.a. curriculum is coming to a close. You've explored many topics: characteristics of good parents whether married or unmarried; how children develop; how to establish paternity if you are not married; and how to work with the Attorney General's child support system. You've learned what makes relationships healthy and unhealthy and how to recognize and respond to relationship violence. You've learned about marriage – what is required to get married in Texas, benefits of marriage, complications for marriage and things that different kinds of couples should consider before getting married.

What are the major lessons or messages about parenting, relationships and marriage that you are taking away from p.a.p.a.? List them below:

In session 10, you thought about your vision for your future. Think back on that now.  
What did you envision for yourself with respect to love, marriage and a baby carriage?

What, if anything, has changed in the way you see future relationships?

What do you plan to do to make sure that you end up in a healthy relationship in the future?

What do you plan to do to make sure you avoid some of the things that make it challenging or complicated to have a healthy relationship or marriage in the future?

If you are in a relationship now, how can you make it healthier?

## Your Future Family

What is your vision of a strong and healthy family in your future? Will you have children? If so, what will your couple relationship be like? What will you do to make sure that your family provides a setting for your children to grow up as happy and healthy as possible?

Describe your future family below. You can write a paragraph or draw a picture. You did this in a group in class, but this exercise is for you to focus on what YOU want in a family.